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Application serial No. 08/427,820 filed April 26, 1995, all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

--11. A method for conducting auctions on the internet comprising:

receiving information of an item for auction from a first participant at a communication handler program executing on a host computer;

processing said information of an item for auction into a presentation format by a database to presentation format formatting program;

receiving at least one bid for said item for auction from a second participant at said host computer; and

receiving payment information from said second participant at said host computer.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

passing said payment information to an external clearinghouse; and

receiving a response that payment has cleared.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

said database to presentation formatting program is a world wide web to database mapping program.

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1 14. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 receiving payment information from said second participant is through a world wide web
3 page server executing on said host computer.

1 15. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 processing said payment information with a transaction processor to debit an account
3 identified by said payment information.

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1 16. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 said payment information is associated with said bid from said second participant.

1 17. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 said payment information identifies a credit card account.

1 18. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 receiving information of an item to auction contains at least a price for said item for sale.

1 19. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 said presentation format is a hyper text markup language format.

1 20. A method for conducting auction on the internet comprising:
2 receiving information of an item to be auctioned at a host computer;
3 generating a tracking number or code to identify said item to be auctioned;
4 processing said information of said item to be auctioned to create a presentation format
5 for said item to be auctioned;
6 receiving at least one bid for said item to be auctioned from a least one internet
7 participant;

8 passing information to said at least one said internet participant as to where to send
9 payment information to pay for said item to be auctioned.

1 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2 opening said auction process to participants on said internet; and

3 automatically closing said auction process to said internet participants based on
4 predetermined parameters.

1 22. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2 receiving said bid for said item to be auctioned through a world wide web page server
3 interface.

1 23. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2 receiving payment information from said at least one participant, said payment
3 information being associated with said bid.

1 24. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2 receiving payment information from said at least one participant said payment
3 information identifying a credit card account, passing said credit card account information to a
4 clearinghouse and receiving authorization from said clearinghouse that payment with said credit
5 card information has cleared.

1 25. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2 receiving payment information from said at least one participant; clearing said payment
3 information and transferring legal ownership of said item from said at least one participant.

1 26. A method for facilitating commerce at an internet auction comprising:

2 authorizing a first participant to post an item for auction at an internet auction site;

3 receiving information of an item for auction from a first participant at a communication
4 handler program executing on a host computer;

5 processing said information of an item for auction into a presentation format by a
6 database to presentation format formatting program;

7 presenting said information of an item for auction to a plurality of internet participants;
8 and

9 receiving at least one bid for said item for auction from at least one said internet
10 participant at said host computer.

27. The method of claim 26 further comprising:

receiving payment information from said second participant at said host computer.

28. The method of claim 26 further comprising:

opening said auction process to participants on said internet; and

automatically closing said auction process to said internet participants based on
predetermined parameters.

29. The method of claim 26 further comprising:

receiving said bid for said item to be auctioned through a world wide web page server
interface.

30. The method of claim 27 further comprising:

receiving payment information from said at least one participant, said payment
information being associated with said bid.